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Response to Office Action mailed April 17, 2007
U.S. Application No. 10/569,560

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REMARKS

The specification changes correct minor typographical errors. The amendment to claim 1 is from claim 3 and from specification paragraph 0023, lines 21-24; whereafter the advantage of this feature of the invention is elaborated with respect to particulate-containing fluids.

Claims Objection - 35 USC 112

Claim 5 was objectionable because it improperly recited "core" for "bore". Claim 5 and claim 4 have been corrected to recite "bore". The language of claim 3 has been corrected to recite "bore" and has been incorporated into claim 1.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC Section 103(a)

Claims 1, 6, 8, and 9 were rejected as unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,634,627 to Daido et al. ("Daido") in view of US Patent No. 4,316,482 to Pearce et al. ("Pearce"). The rejection recites the elements of the claims as shown in Daido combined with the retaining cap of Pearce. Applicants respectfully traverse in view of the amended claims because none of the references disclose the vertical and incline passage geometry of the valve as now claimed, which feature is critical to operation in a slurry tolerant environment for a relief valve.

None of the references disclose the vertical and inclined feature of the invention as now claimed and none of the references appreciated the operational problems associated with operation in a fluid environment that may contain sand or other proppant. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 was rejected over Daido and Pearce further in view of US Patent No. 4,807,846 to Greiner et al. ("Greiner"); similarly claims 3, 4, and 10 were rejected over Daido, Pearce, and US Patent No. 4,335,744 to Bey ("Bey"); and claims 5 and 7 were

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rejected over Daido and Pearce combined with engineering expedient. Applicants respectfully traverse because none of the cited references or engineering expedient include the feature of claim 1 as amended to include the language of claim 3 plus the passage orientation whose advantage is given in paragraphs 0023-0024 for flow direction in either direction.

For the reasons given above with respect to claims 1, 6, 8, and 9 reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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